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ABSTRACT

The University Opinion Poll conducted a two-stage survey of campus bicycle usage and opinions toward campus bicycle facilities. In the first stage, 952 persons, 78% of a random sample of students and staff reported their commuting habits and opinions about campus bicycle lanes. In the second stage, 139 persons, 84% of a sample of student and staff bicycle commuters, reported their riding habits and opinions about campus bicycle facilities. Key findings include: most respondents usually commute to and from the University by car; most cyclists regarded bicycle theft as the major bicycle problem on campus, but were unwilling to pay for increased bicycle security. (Author)

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Student Life Studies
University of Minnesota

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UNIVERSITY OPINION POLL 8A: Bicycles on Campus

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At the request of the Office of Physical Planning the University Opinion Poll conducted a survey of student and staff opinion relating to bicycle usage on the Twin Cities campus of the University of Minnesota. The survey was conducted in two stages. The first stage identified a sample of cyclists and asked non-cyclists about problems with bicycles on campus. The second stage asked the cyclists about their commuting habits and feelings toward campus bicycle facilities. Survey items were generated in meetings between staff members from the Office of Physical Planning and the University Opinion Poll.

Sample

The total sample included the names of 1220 students and staff members from the Twin Cities Campus. Seventy-six percent of the sample were students and 24% were staff (faculty and civil service). The student sample was developed from a computer-generated 3% sampling of students listed in the active file of the Office of Admissions and Records. Extension students and those not registered by the second week of fall quarter were not included. The initial student list was larger than was needed, and was reduced to 930 names by eliminating every seventh name. The 290 staff names were a random sample generated from the files of University Relations. The approximate three to one ratio of students to staff is representative of the total distribution of students and staff on the Twin Cities Campus.

STAGE 1: Identification of Cyclists and Opinions of Non-Cyclists

Conduct of the Survey

The first stage of the survey was conducted by telephone, with a supplemental mailing. On October 24, 1973, the three items selected for the first stage of the survey were telephone pre-tested by a professional interviewer. The telephone portion of the survey was conducted from November 3 to November 7, 1973, by Koser Surveys Inc. A minimum of four attempts was made to contact all those with local phone numbers (N=988). Ten percent of those who did respond were contacted a second time as a validation check on the interviewing. The survey questions were mailed to those without local phone numbers (N=214) and those whom Koser Surveys could not contact by telephone (N=197). No attempt was made to contact 18

individuals in the sample with unknown or foreign addresses.

Response Rates

By November 21, 1973, responses had been received from 78% of the total sample, (79% of the students and 76% of the staff). Response rates were 80% for the telephone portion of the survey and 38% for the mailed portion.

Results

The distributions of responses to each question are presented below. Differences between response categories of fewer than five percentage points should not be considered significant. Percentages may sum to 99% or 101% because of rounding errors.

1. Which of the following means of transportation do you usually use, weather permitting, to travel to and from the University each day?
(Note: Respondents could choose more than one category if appropriate.)

	% of Student Sample N=733)	% of Staff Sample (N=219)	% of Total Sample (N=952)
A. Car, no passengers	33	58	39
B. A car pool of 2 or more people	19	19	19
C. Bus	20	13	19
D. Motorcycle	1	5	1
E. Bicycle	21	4	17
F. Walk	21	21	18
G. Other	3	2	3

2. In terms of pedestrian safety, how satisfied are you with the present bicycle lanes? (This question was asked only if the respondent did not ride a bicycle.)

	% of Student Sample (N=608)	% of Staff Sample (N=212)	% of Total Sample(N=280)
A. Very satisfied	3	1	2
B. Satisfied	42	34	40
C. Undecided	19	23	20
D. Dissatisfied	28	33	29
E. Very Dissatisfied	9	9	9

3. Which one of the following situations have you had trouble with concerning bicycles? (Asked only if respondent did not ride a bicycle; respondent could choose more than one answer.)

	% of Student Sample N=608)	% of Staff Sample (N=212)	% of Total Sample (N=820)
A. Intersection of bicycle lane with pedestrian path	23	10	20
B. Where a pedestrian path is shared with a bicycle lane.	27	15	24
C. Street intersections	16	25	18
D. Bicycle parking areas	1	4	2
E. Sidewalks	14	13	14
F. Never had trouble with bicycles	25	48	31
G. Other	7	9	7

STAGE II: Opinions and Riding Habits of Campus Cyclists

Conduct of the Survey

The second stage of the survey was conducted entirely through a mailed questionnaire. This cyclists' questionnaire, along with the three general questions from the first stage of the survey, was initially mailed to all those in the sample who could not be contacted by telephone. Respondents were instructed not to complete the cyclists' questionnaire if they did not travel to either the St. Paul or Minneapolis campusus by bicycle. (Two cyclists' questionnaires were mistakenly returned and were not included in the analysis.) The initial mailing was conducted between November 3 and November 21, 1973.

In the second mailing the cyclists' questionnaire only was send to all cyclists contacted by telephone in the first stage of the survey. The second mailing was on January 11, with reminders to non-respondents on January 18 and 25, 1974. Because both mailings were conducted during the winter, it was presumed that the time interval between mailings would not affect respondents' opinions.

Sample and Response Rates

The total number of individuals who reported riding bicycles to campus was 165, 156 students and 9 staff. The questionnaire was completed and returned by 139 individuals, 133 students and 6 staff. Response rates were 85% for students and 67% for staff, giving a total response rate of 84%.

Results

The distribution of responses to each question are presented below. Responses of students and staff are not reported separately because of the small number of staff responses. Due to the nature of the questions, the number of responses received for each question varies. Differences between response categories of fewer than 10 percentage points should not be considered significant. Percentages may sum to 99% or 101% because of rounding errors.

1. What type of bicycle do you normally ride? (139 responses)

	%
A. One speed.	11
B. Three speed.	19
C. Five speed.	10
D. Ten speed.	60

2. How many days a week do you ride a bicycle to campus, weather permitting? (134 responses)

A. One.....1%
B. Two.....3
C. Three..10
D. Four...11
E. Five...61%
F. Six.....8
G. Seven...6

3. How far is a one-way trip from your point of origin to your entrance point on campus? (134 responses)

A. Less than one mile.....27%
B. 1-2 miles.....44
C. 3-4 miles.....16
D. 5-6 miles.....10%
E. More than 6 miles.....4

4. For which campus are you bound? (137 responses)

A. Minneapolis.....90%
B. St. Paul.....4
C. Both Mpls. and St. Paul.....6

5. If you were bound for the Minneapolis Campus and your trip originated outside the Campus, at what point did you enter the Campus? (130 responses)

A. 14th Ave.....21%
B. 15th Ave.....20
C. 17th Ave.....5
D. Washington Ave....18
E. Harvard St.....10
F. Arlington.....0
G. 20th Ave.....10%
H. 4th St.....3
I. 3rd St.....0
J. Other.....13

6. If you were bound for the St. Paul Campus and your trip originated outside the Campus, at what point did you enter the Campus? (14 responses)

A. Commonwealth Ave, from West of Cleveland.....23%
B. Commonwealth Ave, from Fairgrounds area.....15
C. Buford.....23
D. Folwell Ave.....8
E. Carter Ave.....8%
F. Gortner Ave...15
G. Other.....8

7. Do you normally leave the campus at the same point where you entered? (132 responses)
   A. Yes.....89%
   B. No.....11%

8. Do you use your bicycle to travel between the Minneapolis and St. Paul campuses? (136 responses)
   A. No.....90%
   B. Yes.....10%

9. How many times per week do you ride your bicycle at night on campus? (139 responses)

   A. Never.....33%
   B. Once a week.....25
   C. Two to four times a week.....29
   D. Five times a week.....4
   E. Daily.....9

10. While on campus, do you use the available bike lanes? (138 responses)
   A. Yes.....90%
   B. No.....10

11. In what area of the campus do you usually park your bike?

   Minneapolis: (159 responses)
   A. Health Sciences area.....22%
   B. IT area.....15
   C. Mall area.....26
   D. Knoll area (Jones, Elliott, Pattee) 13%
   E. West Bank.....19
   F. Other.....5

   St. Paul: (13 responses)
   A. North of Buford.....62%
   B. South of Buford.....23
   C. Veterinary Science.....15

12. Where do you park your bike most frequently? (160 responses)

   A. rack closest to a building entrance.....39%
   B. railing closest to a building entrance....33
   C. in a building.....9
   D. any available rack.....10
   E. other.....9

13. How many times each day (where you get off and park your bike) do you move your bike from one point to another while on campus? (134 responses)

   A. Zero.....36%
   B. One.....16
   C. Two.....25
   D. Three.....15%
   E. Four.....5
   F. Five or more.2

14. If you move from one building to another during the day, what do you do with your bicycle? (120 responses)

   A. park it in a different spot each time you move.....33%
   B. leave it in one spot.....50%
   C. other.....17

15. Which of the following features do you consider more important when parking your bike? (133 responses)

A. rack security.....33%
B. nearness to building entrance.....14
C. equal in importance.....53

16. Ideally, what type of parking facilities (rack, bike lot, etc.) would you prefer to see utilized at the University and why? (150 responses)

A. racks (general comments).....27%
B. racks in more areas.....21
C. better racks.....9
D. bike lots.....13
E. lots with attendant.....13%
F. no response.....7
G. other.....10

17. Would you be willing to pay for better bicycle security (special racks, attended lots, etc.)? (136 responses)

A. Yes.....35%
B. No.....65

If yes, what is the maximum you would be willing to pay for no time limit? (88 responses)

A. 25c (bike insured).....44%
B. 5c (bike not insured).....27
C. 10c (bike not insured).....23
D. 15c (bike not insured).....7

18. Have you ever used the concrete racks for parking your bicycle? (137 responses)

A. Yes.....47%
B. No.....53

19. Do you feel that the concrete racks provide satisfactory security for your bicycle? (129 responses)

A. Yes.....29%
B. No.....25
C. Undecided.....46

20. Which of the following would you prefer to see in a parking facility? (130 responses)

A. Concrete rack.....11%
B. Metal rack.....31
C. No preference.....58

21. What do you feel is the single largest bicycle problem on campus? (172 responses)

theft/security.....31%
pedestrians not observing bike lanes.....26
bike lanes (design of system)....7
automobile traffic.....11
parking facilities.....6
other cyclists.....11
miscellaneous.....8

What thoroughfares did you travel to reach the point where you entered the campus?

STUDENT RESPONSES

Thoroughfare	Frequency
University	28
E. River Road	17
Como	15
Cedar	12
15th Ave.	12
Washington	12
Riverside	11
Franklin SE	9
5th Street	7
14th Ave.	5
Eustis Ave.	5
7th St. SE	4
24th St.	4
20th Ave.	4
Cleveland	4
Park Ave.	4
8th Ave.	3
11th Ave.	3
12th Ave.	3
I-94 frwy.	3
Larpenteur	3
Summit	3
4th St.	2
20th St.	2
28th St.	2
38th St.	2
21st Ave.	2
Nicollet	2
W. River Rd.	2
Stinson	2
Raymond	2
Buford	2
Snelling	2
Bloomington Ave.	2
Cretin	2

One each: Grand, St. Anthony, Union, Essex, Delaware, 8th St., 9th St., 10th St., 14th St., 37th St., 43rd St., 46th St., 50th St., 53rd St., 19th Ave., 22nd Ave., Carter, Lyndale, Fairview, Roselawn, Lake, Broadway, Dayton, Cromwell, Chicago, Tatum, Gortner, Commonwealth, Oak.

STAFF

21st Ave.	1
22nd Ave.	1
River Road	1
15th	3
Como	3
Stinson	1
18th	1
24th Ave.	1
22th Ave.	1
Cecar	1
Franklin	1
Larpenteur	1
Eustis	1
5th St.	1

Do you normally leave the campus at the same point where you entered?

A. Yes

B. No If no, at what location will you leave?

Location	STUDENT RESPONSE Frequency
4th St.	2
15th Ave.	2
Washington	2
Como	2
University	1
17th Ave.	1
Oak St.	1
20th Ave.	1
14th Ave.	1
Carter	1
	STAFF
Hospitals	1

Do you use your bicycle to travel between the Minneapolis and St. Paul campuses?

A. No

B. Yes If yes, what is your typical route?

	STUDENT RESPONSE
Como	11
15th Ave.	4
Cleveland	3
Larpenteur	1
Carter	1
Buford	1
Eustis	1
	STAFF
15th, Como, Carter	1